

10/747,732

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-99. Claims 36-39 and 68-71 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 40 and 72 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 23, 36, 55, 68 and 87 were provisionally rejected over copending patent applications 10/673,529 and 10/673,733. Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer with respect to these two applications. Accordingly, the double-patenting rejection should now be withdrawn.


Claims 36-39 and 68-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over McCann et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0061240 A1) in view of Crockett et al. (U.S. Patent 6,772,303 B2). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has canceled the rejected claims in order to expedite issuance of a patent on the remaining claims. Dependent claims 40 and 72 have been amended to stand as independent claims, respectively incorporating the limitations of claims 36 and 68, from which they formerly depended. Therefore, all the claims remaining in this application are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to Deposit Account No. 09-0468.

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Respectfully submitted,

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